

COMMUNICATED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE POLYNESIAN:—

Dear Sir,—In calling your attention to some remarks in the statistical notes of Robert C. Wyllie, Esq., I would say that I fully concur with you in the deserved praise which you bestow on those "Notes." Every one who feels an interest in the real welfare and advancement of these Islands, must thank him for the able manner in which he has executed his laborious task.

But, although much praise is to be accorded to Mr. Wyllie for the care with which he has collated and spread these statistical facts before us, yet he has made one statement which I think should not be passed over without comment, as I cannot but think him in error.

The paragraph to which I allude, is in the Friend of June 1st, as follows:—

"HINTS FOR THE CUSTOM HOUSE.—The great difference in the price of the same article, as delivered to the custom house, in different invoices, is very remarkable. It is not entirely to be accounted for by the difference of original prices in the different ports whence the goods proceed. I fear some importers feel the obligation of their oaths, subscribed to each entry, less stringently than others. But where the duties are so moderate, and where all is left to the good faith of the importers, the government has a right to impose some check upon the values which they declare. And I do not see that a less objectionable check could be contrived than the enactment of a law providing that the government, whenever they have reason to believe the declared value to be incorrect, should have the power to take, on their own account, the goods so undervalued, at the prices declared, adding to the same as much more as may be sufficient to pay all charges, and a moderate profit to the importer."

"To allow of the adoption of this or any other reasonable check, the entries would require to be more specific and detailed than the present regulations require them to be. Amongst the items of entries which I have examined, are the following, viz:

Broadcloth, - - - -	1 case,	at	\$437 90
Calicoes, brown, - - -	4 bales,	"	73 00
Cloth, long, - - - -	9 bales,	"	518 00
Cottons, brown, - - -	11 bales,	"	325 00
ditto, ditto, - - - -	11 bales,	"	712 94
ditto, white and printed,	7 bales,	"	875 97
ditto goods, - - - -	6 bales,	"	319 83
Crockery ware, - - -	8 cases,	"	432 12
Drill, striped, - - - -	4 cases,	"	164 00
Dry goods, assorted, - -	4 pkgs,	"	1,407 55
ditto ditto, - - - -	7 boxes,	"	977 77
Drilling, sheeting & bedtick,	18 bales,	"	777 27
Furniture, - - - -	15 boxes,	"	432 15
Glass, window, - - -	30 boxes,	"	86 25
Hardware, - - - -	27 pkgs,	"	1,848 00
Handkerchiefs, red, - -	1 case,	"	149 00
Jewelry, - - - -	1 box,	"	70 00
Lacquered ware, - - -	43 cases,	"	656 00
Madapollams, - - - -	9 cases,	"	518 00
Prints, - - - -	6 cases,	"	1,258 72
Silk hdkfs, assorted, - -	19 cases,	"	3,934 00

Besides these there are many others, but these suffice to show the expediency of requiring the importers of goods, in their manifests, to specify the marks and numbers of the packages, the description of goods contained, the number of pieces, yards, weight and measure, and the price per piece, yard, cwt., pound, gallon, or otherwise, as the case may be.

"Under such a system, not only would it be more easy to compare one invoice with another, and to detect any attempted fraud, but there would be a facility, at the end of every year, to make out an exact statement of the goods consumed, during that year; the advantages of which, both to the government and to the merchant, are sufficiently obvious."

With every respect for Mr. Wyllie's opinions, I cannot but hope, that the sentence wherein he intimates that he fears, "some importers feel the obligation of their oaths, subscribed to each entry, less stringently than others," or, to use a less mild manner of expressing the same thing, that some importers have been guilty of swearing false oaths, was written without due consideration. I cannot believe that a person of Mr. Wyllie's sound sense and judgment would, after due consideration, sanction what I consider an injurious aspersion upon the character of the merchants of Oahu. Mr. Wyllie's valuable statistics deserve, what they will doubtless receive, an extensive circulation abroad. I have aided such circulation by every means in my power; sending copies to England, the United States, China, Manila, Sydney, &c.; but, is it just, that the impression should go abroad with those valuable notes, that any of the merchants of Oahu are guilty of swearing false oaths to avoid the paltry duty of 3 per cent ad valorem? I cannot believe that such is Mr. Wyllie's real opinion, and yet, such an erroneous impression may be created by his "Hints for the Custom House." Mr. Wyllie seems to think that there can be no other way of accounting for the "great difference in the cost of the same article, as delivered to the Custom House, in different invoices." I think that he explains the matter in a great measure, himself, by the "items

of entries," which he quotes, with the view of complaining of the great want of particularity in entries; for instance, among the items are

"Cottons, Brown, 11 Bales, \$325.00," and again

"Cottons, Brown, 11 Bales, \$712.94," &c. &c. &c. Mr. Wyllie objects to this general way of making entries. Now is it to be inferred that the merchant who made the first entry of Eleven bales of Brown Cottons, at \$325.00, has undervalued his goods because he did not enter them at \$712, the amount of the succeeding entry of eleven bales? One description of Cottons might cost 5 cents per yard, and the other 10 cents; or the first may have but twenty pieces in a bale, and the other fifty. It certainly often happens that such is the case, and that this "unaccountable" discrepancy may occur, without deceit being practised.

Perhaps Mr. Wyllie founds his opinion upon entries where the quantities, qualities, and prices per yard, pound, &c. &c. are specified. Is there no other possible way of accounting for this difference. It seems to me, though perhaps because I am a party interested, that the problem can be very satisfactorily solved in several different ways, without any harsh implication. For instance, the demand for goods for consumption here is extremely limited, and when a vessel leaves the United States with a cargo for this market, it generally consists of perhaps a dozen different invoices, containing each a very various assortment, in small quantities, purchased by different people there, and consigned to different people here. These small lots are mostly purchased, not from the manufacturers, nor from their agents, but from third, or perhaps fourth hands, and a corresponding price paid. Perhaps one or two of the shippers are importers of European Goods, and invoice such as they ship at cost of importation, while the others pay not only the importers, but the jobbers profit. Now vessels touching here with cargoes made up in England or America, for Mexico, Chili, Oregon, or the North West coast, have their goods in larger quantities, from first hands, at a very much lower invoice price than those who purchase in small quantities. In an invoice containing, for instance, but one or two pieces of Velvet, one or two pieces Broadcloth, and one or two pieces Silk, (articles for which there is a very limited demand,) purchased from jobbers in the United States for this market, it cannot be expected that such Velvets, &c. should be invoiced at the same price as in an invoice containing fifteen or twenty bales purchased from the manufacturers in Europe, and shipped on board a vessel bound to Valparaiso, Mazatlan, or some equally extensive market, that may touch here to dispose of a balance of cargo, on her way to China, as is often the case. Here is room for a great actual difference in prices.

Another reason for this discrepancy is that many merchants and retailers here have correspondents in the United States, who are in the habit of purchasing, from time to time, as opportunities for obtaining goods cheap occur, with the intention of shipping by first vessel: such an one may be seven or eight months in scraping together an invoice, in readiness to ship, which may be emphatically called an invoice of "Notions." These are purchased generally at great discounts from market value, at the Auction sale of a bankrupt shop-keeper, for cash, when money is scarce, &c., and often an invoice may be made up in this way, by those who have the time to devote to watching for opportunities, at from 30 to 50 per cent below the usual prices. The goods may be old and shop-worn, but that cannot, of course, be known at the Custom House. Some persons who ship goods from home pay the freight in advance, and charge it on the cost of the goods separately, with all the other charges, while in some the actual home cost of the goods is given in the invoice. This will make a difference. One vessel, recently arrived, brought out a large lot of second

hand Furniture, purchased probably at Auction. This was, of course, invoiced lower than new Furniture of the same description would be.

But I will not protract these remarks by bringing more reasons for the difference in cost of goods of the same description entered at the Custom House. I cannot think Mr. Wyllie intended to impute to the merchants any wilful fraud. And, for myself, I do not believe that a man possessing any claims to the character of a merchant, has, in a single instance, taken a false oath for the purpose of saving the three per cent duty on any portion of his imports.

Mr. Wyllie recommends that the Collector require from the importer a more particular description of the quantity and price of every article entered. This would be very proper if the Collector confined himself to the duties of his office. But where, as is the case at present, the Collector of Customs is himself a merchant and ship-owner, it does not seem just that he should have the opportunity to examine every invoice of goods that comes into the market, and take advantage of such opportunity to benefit his own mercantile business. The present Collector, as far as my own experience goes, has performed his duties in a faithful, equitable, and gentlemanly manner, and has, I believe, given general satisfaction; but I speak entirely in reference to the principle, which I consider an unjust one, that the merchants should be obliged to submit their invoices to the inspection of one who is also a merchant, engaged in the same business with themselves: therefore I think that no more should be required from the merchants, under the present system, and with the present low rate of duties, than a list of the number of packages, the description of goods, and the aggregate cost of each package. I believe that, with simply this requirement, the duties would be strictly and honorably paid; and that no cause would be given to fear that any importers would not feel the full force of their oaths, and enter their goods accordingly.

A. MERCHANT.

MR. EDITOR:—

Sir,—For one, I was much gratified to see in your columns last week, the article signed query; and to read your remarks attached thereto. I believe the facts stated to be strictly true, and add my most cordial amen to your joint wishes. I am no great church goer myself; but this is owing, I suppose, mainly to there being no church here that I could feel a disposition to attend. The objections stated by your correspondent in regard to the Bethel, have always forced themselves upon me—besides I confess a strong partiality for the Episcopal forms, the sublime chants, the soul stirring Litany, the prayers, the models of purity of diction, the general decorum of the service, which form that happy medium between the ceremonies of the Roman Church, and the informal method of Presbyterianism. However, each one has his predilections. Both of those sects have their places of worship, and I hope the Episcopalians will not long be wanting in this respect. My income is very limited, but small as it is, I will give \$100 yearly for this purpose, provided enough can be raised to sustain a clergyman. A friend of mine also offers \$150. Our names are at your service when desired.

SENEC.

Mr. Editor,—Your acquaintance with Hawaiian character is abundantly sufficient to convince you, that as a people they are, by no means poor judges of the characters of those who visit their Islands. They very well understand who are their friends, and who are opposed to their welfare. Their ideas of honesty, uprightness, and integrity, upon examination, will not be found very much at variance with our own. Recently being in company with a circle of American Missionaries, now assembled at the General meeting, I heard one of them relate the following interesting anecdote. The character of Admiral Thomas, was the topic of conversation, which drew forth the following:—"Around my station," says — "the natives have adopted this mode of expression: if they find a man remarkable for honesty, integrity, veracity, and an upholder of the laws, they call him 'Admiral Toma'; but, if a person appears destitute of these traits,

regardless of good order, and lawless, they call him, 'Lord George.'"

This fact will clearly evince that the opinion of the natives, respecting those two men, substantially agrees with the view expressed by almost the whole civilized world. Who has better right to express his opinion respecting those men than an Hawaiian?

Yours, Truly, X. Y.

Honolulu, June 3, 1844.

THE POLYNESIAN.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE HAWAIIAN GOVERNMENT.

HONOLULU, SATURDAY, JULY 20, 1844.

OFFICERS OF THE U. S. SHIP WARREN—now lying in this harbour.

Commander—Joseph B. Hull, Esq.

1st. Lieutenant—Wm. Radford.

2d " Wm. W. Maury.

3d " Wm. B. Renshaw.

Acting Lieutenant—John Rutledge.

Master—Wm. H. Montgomery.

Surgeon—Wm. J. Powell.

Purser—T. R. Ware.

Assistant Surgeon—E. Hudson.

Midshipmen—Fred. Kellogg, A. W. Johnson, Raff D. Minor, A. M. De Bree, W. O. Crane, Stanwix Gansevoort, Jefferson Mc Roberts.

CONSULAT DE FRANCE, ILES SANDWICH, 12 JUILLET, 1844. }

Monsieur le Ministre,—J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je viens de recevoir des dépêches officielles, qui m'autorisent à faire, connaître aux Représentants des nations alliées de la France, que le Gouvernement de sa Majesté, très Chrétienne, a accordé en principe le Protectorat demandé par Lavelua, Roi des Wallis, et Piteto, Roi de l'île Foutouna, et, de plus, que, par une convention conclue entre Monsieur le Commandant de la Charte, et le Roi des îles Gambier, le Protectorat de la France a été également établi sur cet archipel, sauf toutes fois, la ratification de sa Majesté le Roi des Français. Agréez, Monsieur le ministre, l'assurance de la parfaite considération avec la quelle j'ai l'honneur d'être

Votre très Humble,
et très ob'd Serv't'r,
JULES DUDOIT,
Consul de France.

G. P. JUDD, Esq., a
Monsieur le Ministre
des Affaires Etrangères.

KAMI O KE KANIKELA FARANI, KO HAWAII PAE AINA. Iulai, 12, 1844. }

Monsieur le Ministre,—Ke hai aku nei au ia oe me ka mahalo, ua loa ia'u na palapala Oihana e pono ai au ke hooakaka aku, i na Luna o na Aina e i launa pu me Farani. I ka ae ana aku o ke Aupuni o ka Moi Kari-siano loa e hoomalu maopopo aku e like me ke koi ana mai o Lawelua ke 'Lii, o Ea, (Wallis) mokupuni, a o Pileko ke 'Lii o Foutouna Mokupuni.

Eia hoi kekahi, ma ke kuikahi i hanaia mawaena o ke 'Lii Charte, a me ke 'Lii o Gambier Mokupuni, ua paa loa ka hoomalu ana o Farani maluna oia mau aina, aia no nae ka hooholoia e ke 'Lii o ko Farani.

E ae mai oe i kuu hoike ana aku ia oe, ka mahalo oiaio o kuu noho ana o kau kauwa hoolohe. (Inoa.) J. DUDOIT, Kanikela Farani.

G. P. JUDD,
Luna no ko na aina e.

CONSULATE OF FRANCE, SANDWICH ISLANDS. 12 JULY, 1844. }

Monsieur le Ministre,—I have the honor to inform you that I have received Official despatches that authorize me to announce to the representatives of Nations in alliance with France, that the Government of His Most Christian Majesty, has accorded in principle the protection demanded by Lavelua, King of the Wallis Islands, and by Pileto, King of the Island Foutouna, and further that by a convention concluded between the commandant of the Frigate Charte, and the King of the Gambier Islands, the protection of France has been equally established over that Archipelago, subject always to the ratification of His Majesty the King of the French.

Accept, Sir, the Assurances of the Perfect Consideration with which I have the Honor to be

Your Very Humble,
and Obt. Servant,
(Signed,) JULES DUDOIT,
Consul of France.

G. P. JUDD, Esq.,
Minister of Foreign Affairs